

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Bundy

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FOLLOWING IS CAS VIENTIANE 8408 RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON AS IN 11109.
REF: JCS 5221, 062143Z

FOLLOWING ARE AMB SULLIVAN'S COMMENTS ON REF, CONCURRED IN BY
CAS VETN:

I BELIEVE IT PERTINENT TO CORRECT CERTAIN APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS RE CAS GUERRILLA EXPANSIONS ALREADY APPROVED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE DRV-LAO BORDER IN THE PROVINCES OF SAM NEUA AND LUANG PRABANG. THESE APPROVALS WERE GRANTED BY ME AND CONCURRED IN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR EXPANSIONS INTO THE DRV AS STATED IN PARA 3A REF. BY THE TERM "EXPANSION" AS USED IN THESE DISCUSSIONS I REFER TO THE ARMING OF ABLE-BODIED TRIBAL ELEMENTS IN THEIR HOME AREAS AND RECLAIMING THESE AREAS FROM PL CONTROL, BRINGING THEM WITHIN U.S. MISSION'S REFUGEE PROGRAM AND SUPPORTING THEM WITH RICE, MEDICAL CARE, EDUCATION, ETC. IT IS WELL BEYOND OUR CAPABILITY AND OF QUESTIONABLE DESIRABILITY AT THIS TIME TO PLAN SUCH EXPANSIONS INTO TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE DRV. I HAVE LIMITED BY APPROVALS FOR OPERATIONS INSIDE THE DRV FROM LAOS TO SMALL SCALE INTELLIGENCE PROBES TO DETERMINE POPULAR ATTITUDES AND THE RECRUITMENT OF INDIGENOUS ASSETS TO PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE AND SUPPORT TO TEAMS SENT IN FROM LAOS. I HAVE AUTHORIZED COMMITMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS ONLY AND NOT TO VILLAGE POPULATIONS OR TRIBAL GROUPS AS SUCH.

MY OWN ATTITUDE TOWARD OPERATIONS INTO THE DRV FROM LAOS IS FAMILIAR TO THE DEPARTMENT AND, I BELIEVE, TO CAS HQS. I FEEL THAT ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF OPLAN 34A IS NOW BEING ACCOMPLISHED IN EFFECT BY ROLLING THUNDER AND IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY TO CONDUCT GROUND OPERATIONS TO ACCOMPLISH 34A OBJECTIVES SUCH AS TO "INTERDICT ROUTE 7" IN NORTH VIETNAM.

WITH RESPECT TO "THE BROADER OBJECTIVE OF A FULL SCALE RESISTANCE EFFORT", I ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE POLICY ASPECTS OF THIS CONCEPT AND I WOULD HOPE TO BE CONSULTED AT LEAST WITH RESPECT TO THE LAUNCHING AND SUPPORT OF SUCH OPERATIONS FROM LAOS.

GP-1

BT

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